

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158614

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 2639 ACTION DEPT INFO GUATEMALA
JULY 11TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2639

E.O. 1165-' GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CS, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA

REF: STATE 149324 NOTAL

1. FORTUITOUSLY, FACIO ASKED ME TO RIDE WITH HIM FROM AIR-
PORT THIS MORNING FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT
ECHEVERRIA. HE WANTED TO GIVE ME THE FOLLOWING INFORMA-
TION ON THE CUBA SITUATION:

A. WHILE HE WAS IN CARACAS FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE,
BOTH VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA INFORMED HIM THAT THEY WERE
PREPARED TO MOVE PROMPTCLY AND UNILATERALLY TO RECOGNIZE
CUBA. ACCORDVING TO FACIO, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PANAMA
AND ECUADOR ARE READY TO JOIN IN THIS ACTION.

B. FACIO BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE ABOVE ACTION
WOULD EFFECTIVELY DESTROY THE RIO TREATY AND SEVERELY
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DAMAGE THE OAS, SINCE 5 COUNTRIES ADDED TO THE 7 WHICH

ALREADY RECOGNIZE CUBA WOULD CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY OF RIO TREATY SIGNATORIES.

C. FACIO SAYS THAT HE PLEADED WITH VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA FOR TIME TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE. IN HIS MIND THE ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD BE AGREEMENT TO HOLD A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS UNDER THE RIO TREATY IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DEAL ONCE AND FOR ALL WITH THE QUESHBON OF CONTINUED SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA. FACIO SAYS THAT HE THINKS HE HAS AGREEMENT FROM VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA TO DELAY ANY UNILATERAL ACTION UNTIL AT LEAST AUGUST 1 WHILE HE TRIES TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR A MFM. ACCORDING TO FACIO THE MFM ITSELF NEED NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL A CONVENIENT LATER DATE, POSSIBLY OCTOBER, BUT THE DECISION TO GO THAT ROUTE MUST BE REACHED BY EARLY AUGUST OR THE 5 COUNTRIES WILL GO THEIR WAY.

D. FACIO WILL START IMMEDIATELY TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT FOR A MFM. HE IS LEAVING LATER THIS MORNING FOR GUATEMALA TO SEEK GOG SUPPORT OF HIS POSITION. HE WILL ASK THE GOG TO APPROACH EL SALVADOR AND PERHAPS NICARAGUA, WHILE HE WILL APPROACH HONDURAS. FACIO'S HOPE IS TO ACHIEVE CENTRAL AMERICAN BLOC SUPPORT FOR A MFM.

E. FACIO ALSO BELIEVES HE HAS MEXICAN FONMIN RABASA'S TACIT SUPPORT FOR A MFM ON CUBA, AND HOPES THAT ECHEVERRIA AND RABASA WILL SUPPORT THIS LINE DURING THE REST OF THEIR SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR. FACIO OBVIOUSLY FELT THIS WAS SOMETHING OF A COUP OF A COUP MEXICO WAS AFTER ALL THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE CUBA UNILATERALLY.

F. FACIO IS CONSIDERING A VISIT TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC NEXT WEEK TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION. HE WOULD THEN GO TO CARACAS IF THINGS HAVE GONE WELL FOR HIM BY THAT TIME.

2. I HAVE FACIO THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTTEL, WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS. HOWEVER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS RECOUNTED ABOVE HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT A MFM WOULD BE "PREMATURE". IN FACT, HE IS CONVINCED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL

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IF THE RIO TREATY IS TO BE SAVED. HE URGED ME TO PRESENT HIS VIEWS, WHICH APPARENTLY ENJOY PRESIDENT ODUBER'S FULL SUPPORT, TO WASHINGTON IN THE HOPE THAT THE USG WILL UNDERSTAND AND NOT OPPOSE HIS INITIATIVE. HE PROMISED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH ME WHEN HE RETURNS FROM GUATEMALA WHICH MAY BE FRIDAY.

3. I ASKED FACIO WHETHER HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT

HIS THESIS THAT A 2/3 MAJORITY IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN
SANCTIONS. HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD ADVANCE THIS ARGUMENT,
BUT THAT HE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY REASONABLE FORMULA
WHICH THE U.S. OR OTHERS MIGHT ADVANCE.

4. FACIO TOLD ME AGAIN THAT IN ANY CASE THE GOCR HAS NO
INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA.
LANE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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